

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 DRC-01 /123 W

----- 105680

R 201618Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1040

PXTO RUESAK/AMEMBASSY CONAKRY 1031

AMEMBASSY LISBON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MONROVIA 1046

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, LI, PO

SUBJECT: CABRAL VISITS MONROVIA

1. DURING PAST TWO DAYS, MONROVIA AND GOL HAVE BEEN HOSTING VISIT HERE OF LUIZ CABRAL. VISITOR IS GETTING LAVIS ATTENTION AND BEING TREATED LIKE HEAD OF MAJOR POWER. HE PARTICIPATED IN OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW LOW-COST HOUSING ESTATE NAMED IN HONOR HIS BROTHER AMILCAR AND HAS BEEN GUEST OF HONOR AT SEVERAL FUNCTIONS INCLUDING STATE BANQUET. THIS PARTY WAS NOT ATTENDED BY MOST WEST EUROPEAN AMBASSADORS ALTHOUGH SWEDISH AND DUTCH DID GO; LATTER AFTER SOME DITHERING RECEIVED LAST-MINUTE INSTRUCTIONS FROM HIS GOVERNMENT TO ATTEND.

2. WE HAVE NO FIRST-HAND REPORTS OF TOPICS DISCUSSED OR GENERAL ATMOSPHERICS AT BANQUET AND OTHER AFFAIRS. WILL ATTEMPT GET SOMETHING FROM OUR COLLEAGUES AND LIBERIAN SOURCES; NEVERTHELESS, WE ARE STRUCK BY ATTENTION PAID TO GOL AND ESPECIALLY PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO CABRAL. AT LAST MINUTE, TUESDAY WAS DECLARED NATIONAL HOLIDAY WITH ALL BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT OFFICES, SCHOOLS, ETC., CLOSED. ELECTRICITY, WHICH IS TURNED OFF EVERY NIGHT IN LARGE AREA OF CITY (INCLUDING EMBASSY) FROM 2300 HOURS TO 0600 HOURS AS CONSERVATION GESTURE, WAS ALLOWED TO FLOW FREELY AND OTHER

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GESTURES--FLAGS, PICTURES ON UTILITY POLES, ETC.--ALL ADD UP TO MASSIVE GOL EFFORT. IT OBVIOUS TOLBERT GOING ALL OUT GIVE

CABRAL WARM WELCOME AND NO DOUBT LIBERIAN ACTIONS WILL BE NOTED ELSEWHERE IN AFRICA.

3. WE BELIEVE THERE SOUND AND CAREFULLY CALCULATED DOMESTIC AND FOREIGN POLICY REASONS BEHIND THIS BROUHAHA. ON DOMESTIC SCENE, PRESIDENT TOLBERT WANTS BUILD UP HIS IMAGE AS SUPPORTER AFRICAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT TO ENHANCE HIS POPULARITY WITH STUDENTS AND NATIONALISTS WITH WHOM HE IS SLIGHTLY AT ODDS THESE DAYS OVER DIFFICULTIES AT UNIVERSITY. ON INTERNATIONAL FRONT, HE EQUALLY ANXIOUS TO BURNISH HIS IMAGE AS SPOKESMAN FOR PAIGC. HE WANTS OAU TO BE AWARE HIS ACTIVITIES AND WOULD NOT RULE OUT POSSIBILITY HE LOOKING AHEAD TO POSSIBLE CAMPAIGN FOR PRESIDENCY THAT BODY.

4. SO FAR, THERE HAS BEEN NO INDICATION OF CRITICISM OF US AND OTHER WESTERN POWERS FOR LACK RECOGNITION OR ASSISTANCE TO GUINEA-BISSAU BUT IT POSSIBLE NEWSPAPERS AND STUDENT GROUPS SUCH AS MOJA WILL COMMENT ON THIS IN NEXT FEW DAYS.
MANFULL

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